

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 799

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, EMIN, GY

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT OF BAUXITE FROM FORMER REYNOLDS OPERATION AT
KWAKWANI TO GUYBAU FACILITY AT LINDEN.

REF: EAL JANUARY - MARCH 1974

1. FORMER REYNOLDS BAUXITE MINES („NOW BERBICE MINING ENTERPRISE)
AT KWAKWANI ARE LOCATED OVER 120 TORTUOUS MILES INLAND ALONG THE BER-
BICE RIVER. MINING AREA IS ABOUT 25 MILES BY JEEP OR TRUCK TRAIL
FROM ITUNI, WHICH IS LOCATED BESIDE RAIL LINE THAT CONNECTS WITH
LINDEN. RAIL SERVICE WAS INSTALLED DURING WORLD WAR II IN ORDER
TO EXPLOIT BAUXITE DEPOSITS AROUND ITUNI AREA. SOUTHERN TERMINUS
OF LINE IS ABOUT 19 MILES FROM WEST BANK OF BERBICE DIRECTLY
OPPOSITE KWAKWANI. MOST LOGICAL AND IN LONGER TERM ECONOMIC MEANS
TO TRANSPORT ORE FROM KWAKWANI TO LINDEN WOULD INVOLVE EXTENSION
OF EXISTING RAIL LINE, AND POSSIBLY RAILROAD BRIDGE ACROSS BERBICE.
WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY INDUSTRY SOURCE IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
ECONOMIC TO TRUCK BAUXITE TO ITUNI WHICH WOULD INCUR FIFTY ROUND
TRIP UNLESS ORE QUALITY MUCH GREATER THAN THAT CURRENTLY MINED
IN LINDEN AREA.

2. STICKING POINT WITH BERBICE MINING ENTERPRISE (BERMINE) OPERAT
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ION IS POLITICAL NEED TO MAINTAIN FACILITY AT EVERTON, WHICH EMPLOYS

DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY BULK OF NEW AMSTERDAM POPULATION. TO
DIVERT CALCINE-GRADE BAUXITE FROM EVERTON TO LINDEN WOULD HAVE
FORMER WITH TASK OF ONLY DRYING METAL-AND CHEMICAL-GRADE
WHICH WOULD MOST LIKELY BE LOSING PROPOSITION. ONE POSSIBLE ALTER-
NATIVE THAT GOG MAY BE CONSIDERING IS TO EXPLOIT CALCINE AND
CHEMICAL GRADE ONLY AT KWAKWANI, TAKING JUST THAT AMOUNT OF METAL-
GRADE WHICH MUST BE REMOVED TO PERMIT MINING OF OTHER GRADES.
THIS WOULD ONLY BE A TEMPORARY MEASURE SINCE IT SEEMS THAT ULTIMATELY
GUYBAU WILL REQUIRE REFRACTORY-GRADE BAUXITE FROM KWAKWANI TO SUPPLY
ITS YET TO BE EXPANDED CALCINING OPERATIONS.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

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